

Claims

1. A method for allowing a user interfacing a computer with a console, to delay the execution of system administration operations and to have them executed in unattended mode on said
5 computer, said method comprising the steps of:

seizing identification of the user at the console and checking authorization,

if the user is authorized, seizing at the console and storing in a working storage area the characteristics of the
10 system currently active on the computer, parameters describing the administration operations to be performed on the computer, the type of system restart to be performed after administration operations in unattended mode the delay to be waited for before starting said administration operations,

5 requiring to the operating system of the computer to start delay,

when delay is expired, initializing the computer peripherals according to parameters describing the administration operations stored in the working storage area and setting the operating
20 system in a sleeping state,

performing the administration operations according to the administration operations parameters stored in the working storage area,

25 retrieving from the working storage area the characteristics of the system which was active on the computer and the type of system restart to be performed after administration operations in unattended mode, and,

restarting the system according to said retrieved information.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of performing the administration operations further comprises a step of capturing and answering the messages from and to the operating system during the execution of the administration operations.

5 3. The method of claim 1 comprising an additional step of computing the delay after seizing the parameters describing the delay, said parameters comprising a day, hours and minutes.

10 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of seizing and checking authorization is the only step of the method if the user is not authorized.

5 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising, for each step of the method an additional step of logging the return code of execution of the step in the working storage area.

20 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising for each step of the method an additional step of analyzing the return code and executing the retrieving and restarting steps of the method if the result of the analyzing step is that the method cannot be completed.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the result of the analyzing step being that the method cannot be completed is that a peripheral used for executing the administration operations cannot be initialized.

25 8. The method of claim 6 wherein the result of the analyzing step being that the method cannot be completed is that the operating system cannot be set in sleeping mode.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of seizing and checking authorization further comprises a step of checking that the console used by the user is the operator console and if not, the user being unauthorized.

- 5 10. A computer program comprising instructions adapted for carrying out all the steps of the method according to claim 1 when said program is executed by a computer.